

SENIOR SERVICE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Middletown Senior Center

150 William Street

October 1, 2013

5:00 PM

1. Members Present: Commissioners: Chairperson Ed Dypa, Pat Jackowski, Annabelle Malone, Lucy Bettencourt, Councilman Phillip Pessina and Councilman, Ron Klattenberg, Claude Hendrickson, Ed Rubacha, William Wasch and Tom Hutton

Absent: None

Staff Present: Debbie Stanley, Acting Director

General Public: None

2. Meeting Called to Order: Called to order at 5:00.

3. Public Hearing: None

4. Approval of March Minutes: Ron Klattenberg motioned to accept minutes from June 4, 2013, seconded by Phil Pessina, approved by all.

Departmental Reports:

Acting Director Debbie Stanley:

- Debbie Stanley distributed reports prepared by Heidi Geores, Senior Services Coordinator and Laura Runte, Senior Services Specialist (Municipal Agent) and spoke to some of the challenges that are being faced by staff and seniors.
- Municipal Agent Report- Laura Runte continues to help seniors with insurance issues and may need to attend additional trainings as there are many changes being made to Medicare with the implementation of Obama Care and the Affordable Care Act. There was much discussion on the ADA component of her job and how it overlaps with other departments such as Public Works. The general consensus was that ADA issues effect the whole community, not only seniors and that perhaps this responsibility should be transferred to another city department. This will continue to be explored as mergers within the city are finalized.
- Senior Center Report – Several issues with the Senior Center buses were addressed regarding maintenance and repairs. The IT department assisted with switching the Senior Center over to a new WiFi plan that will provide better service at a lower cost. There was some discussion regarding the possibility of implementing a participant's code of conduct to alleviate some issues that have come up with programs. There was discussion at length regarding under aged (<60) participants in Senior Center programs. Chairman, Ed Dypa will review meeting minutes from the past to reflect on previous discussions of this topic. There is much concern regarding how department mergers and changes to commissions will impact the Senior Center and the Senior Services Commission moving forward.

Old Business

➤ **Building Committee Update:**

- Ron Klattenberg informed the group that a grant opportunity is not being pursued as it is likely to impede the progress of the project.

New Business:

- Hiring of new Senior/Community Center Administrator/Manager – The Senior Center budget is funded for this position to be filled as of January 1, 2014. Several interested parties have already submitted resumes. Job description and duties need to be outlined and defined. The commission agreed that they would like to have input during the processes of defining the job as well as the hiring of the individual. Concern was expressed that it be insured that this would not be a political appointment, but that the right person for the job is hired. The commission discussed creating a sub-committee to work on these issues.
- ID cards for patrons- Debbie Stanly informed the group that a software system “RecTrack” has the capacity to implement ID cards. The commission is interested in pursuing this avenue as a means of gathering additional information on trends in participation of programs.

Miscellaneous: Ed Dypa notified the group that Senator Paul Doyle’s 7th annual expo will be held at the Cromwell Senior Center on October 29, 2013. Senior Resources recently held an expo. Participation in the event fell short of expectations. It was discussed how advertising and promotion of the event may be the cause of that.

Pat Jackowski initiated a discussion regarding the transportation program that is being worked on between the City and MAT. This program will provide transportation to seniors residing in senior housings to the new Senior Center. There has recently been an increase to the fee for the Dial-A-Ride program

Adjournment: 6:00

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Didato Stanley
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